(ii) *Capital Works*

1989-90	2596.14
1990-91	2772.67
1991-92 (Provisional) . .	3230.38

Statement

The instructions issued to all Heads of Circles in connection with faults repairs within 24 hours gives the details of the steps taken by the Government to gear up the Maintenance Service. In addition under Action Plan 'Mission Better Communication, the following steps are taken to provide better service to the subscriber.

(i) Replacement of old Telephone Instruments.

(2) Replacement of old and worn out Drop Wire upto subscriber premises.

(3) Replacement of over-head alignment by under-ground cable as practical and required.

(4) Replacement of fault prone underground cable by new ones.

(5) Replacement of old DPS by new D.P.S.

(6) Introduction of Ducts in External Plants to give protection to the cable.

(7) Proper upkeep of equipment, lines, telephone instruments and transmission systems.

Modernisation of postal system during Eighth Five Year Plan period

509. SHRI J. S. RAJU: Will the Minnister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to modernise the Indian Postal System during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For modernisation of Postal Services, the following steps are being taken, during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

1. Installation of automatic integrated mail processing system in Bombay, Delhi, Madras Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Calcutta.

2. There is a proposal for introduction of satellite money order in 75 locations spread over the country.

3. Computerisation of counters for providing multiple transactions at a single window, computerisation of saving bank and postal life insurance operations.

Mass transfer in DOT

510. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Financial Express of the 25th June, 1992 under the caption "Mass transfers in DOT" involving as many as 44 Joint Secretary level officers (Dy. Director General), almost paralysing the Telecom Sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there is undue delay in taking decision regarding the various tenders now under the last stages of finalisation in DOT; and

(d) if so, in what manner and by when the normal situation is likely to prevail so that work in DOT does not suffers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The orders cover the promotion of officers, posting of officers, returning from deputation, and transfer of long

standing officers in the interests of administration.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

New technology for sending telegrams and telegraphic money order in Madhya Pradesh

511. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 4532 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st March, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government have decided to establish stations for the purpose of sending telegrams and telegraphic Money Orders in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the number of such stations that are likely to be established in Madhya Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYANAIDU): (a) and (b) Facilities already exist to send telegrams at 40855 Combined Posts & Telegraph Offices, 717 Telegraph Offices and 131 Central Telegraph Offices in the country. Telegraphic money orders booked and transferred from post offices are at present transmitted through the existing telegraph network. However, to modernise the telegraph network 45 micro processor based store and forward telegraph systems have been introduced into telegraph network, Electronic key boards, electronic key board concentrators, PC based formatted terminals and electronic teleprinters have also been used in telegraph network.

There is also a plan to establish satellite money order system in 75 locations spread over the country.

(c) In the State of Madhya Pradesh 4 Store and Forward Telegraph systems one each at Bhopal, Jabalpur. Indore and Raipur have already been installed and commissioned. The same will be upgraded to store and forward message switching systems of 32 lines capacity during the VIIIth Five Year Plan period. In addition 500 electronic key boards will also be installed during the VIII th Five Year Plan period to improve quality of telegraph services.

Although some locations in Madhya Pradesh will be covered under the satellite money order systems, it is too premature to indicate number of exact locations in the State now.

Smuggling on the Indo-Myanmar Border

512. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling of drugs and gold is now on the increase in the Indo-Myanmar border; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the steps taken to check smuggling in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Available reports indicate that the Indo-Maanmar border continues to be sensitive to smuggling of Gold and Narcotic Drugs. However, since smuggling is a clandestine activity it is not possible to say whether such smuggling is now on the increase. The quantities of gold and narcotic drugs (of South-East Asian origin) that have been seized in the Indo-Myanmar sector of the land border in the last 4 years is given in the table below:

	1989	1990	1991	1992 (upto June)
Heroin Qty (in Kg.)	20	9	12	4
Gold Qty (in grams)	539	627.04	..	27